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Date: September 24, 2004

By: Rebecca A. Mier

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#### PATENT

Applicants:	Bimson et al.	Docket No.:	40655.0400
Serial No.:	09/769,887	Examiner:	Thu V. Huynh
Filed:	January 25, 2001	Group Art Unit:	2178
Title:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AN INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK	Confirmation No.:	5480

### AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

In reply to the Office Action dated July 2, 2004, of which this reply is within the shortened three month statutory period for response, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Abstract and Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

A replacement **Abstract** is provided on a separate page at the end of this document.